# COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Wednesday, the** *13th March 1935.* / *29th Kumbhom 1110.*

The House met at 1135 A. M. in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, with M. R. Ry., A.Sankara Menon Avl., B. A. & B. L., in the Chair. Messrs. C.Barton Wright, E. Ikkanda Warriar, Ismail Hajee Essa Sait, C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri, A. I. Mani, K. T. Mathew and C. A. Cuseph were absent.

## Questions and Answers.

### Licenses to Cinema shows and Dramas—suspension of—Mattancheri.

**302. Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased toState:—

(a) if they are awareof the fact that licenses to Cinema shows and Dramas have been suspended in Mattancheri under the orders of the authorities;

(b) are such orders issued under the Cochin Plague Regulations;

(c) whether any appeals from the owners of the above Cinemas and Dramas have been received and how are they dealt with;

(d) whether they areaware of any correspondence having taken place between the Chairman and Plague Officer and the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, British Cochin; if so, will they be pleased to place on the table a copy of each of the letters exchanged;

(e) is it a fact that one appeal has been referred to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, British Cochin; if so, will a copy of the text of the recommendations of the Plague Officer on the above be placed on the table?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No; the second part of the question does not arise.

(d) Yes. Since the correspondence was not with an officer in State service, it is not possible to publish it.

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(e) No; the second part of the question does not arise.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased to state under what Regulation these entertainments were stopped?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—I think it is under the Municipal Regulation.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—What made the Municipalities stop these entertainments?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—They stopped it because the infection may not spread.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Is it in the capacity of the Chairman or is it in the capacity of the Plague Officer that the order was issued.

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—In the capacity of the Chairman.

**Mr. K. G. Nayar.**—Under what section of the Municipal Regulation was the suspension order issued?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—It was under section 9 of Regulation X of 1097.

**Mr. K. G. Nayar.**—Did the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Cochin recommend the suspension of these cinema shows and dramas?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—I don't think he recommended, but there was some correspondence and probably there was a mutual suggestion that such forms of entertainments may be suspended for the time being so that infection may not spread.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Are the Government aware that before the withdrawal of the plague notification, licenses have been issued by the same authorities?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—No.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Suppose it is a fact, do the Government think that it is a blunder committed by the authorities who are responsible for it?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—We should first ascertain what the action taken was. Then only, we can form an opinion whether their action was correct or not.

**Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Suppose the Chairman of the Mattanchery Municipality has issued orders to cancel the licenses for the entertainments thinking that this infection might spread in the town and when the same epidemic was prevailing in the same town and before the withdrawal of the plague declaration, is the procedure a correct one?

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**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—Unless I look into the particular circumstances I cannot say definitely whether he was correct or he was not correct. It is more a hypothetical question to which an answer cannot be given.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—May I know the impossibility in publishing this correspondence?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—Generally correspondence conducted with officers of other Governments is not published as a matter of course.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Where is the impossibility?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—The impossibility is in the impropriety in publishing these letters.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Wherein lies the impropriety?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—There is an ultimate end for answering questions.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—You are making a mere categorical assertion.

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—It is not possible to explain matters further.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Is there any rule prohibiting the publication of correspondence between our State and an officer outside?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—In these matters there are no rules to regulate the activities of the Government. It is absolutely a matter of discretion of the Government to publish any correspondence which they have in their possession or to withhold it from the public. It is purely a matter of discretion, not only in this instance but in all other instances.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Is there not a particular reason?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—The reason I explained is that it is improper. That is the real reason for it.

**Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Is it not a change in the words?

**Rama Varmha Tampuran.**—If the Hon'ble Member thinks that it is a change in the words he is at liberty to take it in that light.

## Rat Flea survey in British Cochin.

303. **Mr. Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan.**—Will the Government be pleased to State:—

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